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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277  
Takayuki SUZUKI, et al. : Confirmation Number: 5045  
Serial No.: 09/973,048 : Group Art Unit: 2858  
Filed: October 10, 2001 : Examiner:  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING A DISC PLATE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

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09/973,048

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Date: September 30, 2003**



SHEET 1 OF 1

| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>CITATION IN AN<br/>APPLICATION</b><br><br>(PTO-1449) |          |   |                                | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br><b>50353-577</b>               | SERIAL NO.<br><b>09/973,048</b>                           |  |
|--|----------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
|  |          |   |                                | APPLICANT<br><b>Takayuki SUZUKI, et al.</b>        |   |  |
|  |          |   |                                | FILING DATE<br><b>October 10, 2001</b>             | GROUP<br><b>2858</b>                                      |  |
| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>   |          |   |                                |  |   |  |
| EXAMINER'S INITIALS  | CITE NO. | Document Number<br>Number-Kind Code <sub>2</sub> ( <i>if known</i> )  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document    |   |  |
|  | US       | <b>6,159,572</b>  | <b>12/12/2000</b>              | <b>Kobayashi et al.</b>                            |   |  |
|  | US       | <b>6,136,133</b>  | <b>10/24/2000</b>              | <b>Maruyama et al.</b>                             |   |  |
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| <b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>  |          |   |                                |  |   |  |
| EXAMINER'S INITIALS  | CITE NO. | Foreign Patent Document<br>Country Code <sub>3</sub> -Number +-Kind<br>Codes ( <i>if known</i> )  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines<br>Where Relevant<br>Figures Appear | Translation  |
|  |          | <b>EP 0869488 A2</b>  | <b>10/07/1998</b>              | <b>TOSHIBA-EMI LIMITED</b>                         |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|  |          | <b>EP 0793224 A1</b>  | <b>09/03/1997</b>              | <b>ORIGIN ELECTRIC CO.<br/>LTD.</b>                |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
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| <b>OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>            |          |   |                                |  |   |  |
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